

# Bonn Rocket Trundled Off To Moscow

From News Dispatches

BONN, Oct. 29 — Federal prosecutor Ludwig Martin described today how three West Germans loaded a Sidewinder air-to-air missile onto a wheelbarrow, drove away from a NATO base with the missile sticking out of a car window, and sent the weapon to Moscow by air freight.

His disclosures were the latest in a series of incidents that have rocked West Germany's security services. The scandal has involved the violent deaths of at least five persons, and Chancellor Kiesinger, who returns Wednesday from an official visit to Spain, has ordered a full investigation of security operations.

Martin said the three who took the Sidewinder had also stolen two navigational devices for the Soviets. He identified the men as Sgt. Maj. Wolf-Diethard Knope, a 33-year-old pilot in the West German air force; Polish-born Josef Linowski, an air force mechanic; and a civilian iden-

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tified only as "Mr. X." All were arrested last week.

The theft of the missile occurred at the Zell air base near Neuburg, Bavaria, about a year ago, Martin told a news conference in Karlsruhe. Apparently it made no great impression on officials at the time.

The Sidewinder was developed by the United States and has been in service since the late 1950s. A number have been used to shoot down Communist planes over North Vietnam.

The 9-B Sidewinder is manufactured in Europe under U.S. license and is widely used among NATO countries. It is nine feet long, five inches in diameter and weighs 160

pounds. Its fins have a span of two feet. The missile has an effective range of about two miles and it can travel at 2½ times the speed of sound.

Martin gave this account of how one of these things was stolen:

Knope and Linowski climbed over a fence at the Zell base, broke into a shed where the missiles were stored, loaded one onto a wheelbarrow or pushcart, and trundled it across a runway to the fence.

An automatic alarm system supplemented by guards and dogs gave the two no trouble. There was no explanation of this.

To get the missile through the fence, the two cut a hole in the wire. There was "Mr. X", waiting with an automobile.

The missile was too long to fit into the vehicle, so the three knocked out the back window. To disguise the Sidewinder, they wrapped the exposed end in an old rug.

They then drove across West Germany to an undisclosed town, dismantled the weapon, packed it in a specially made case and shipped it to Moscow by regular air freight.

As for the navigational equipment, Martin said the three had stolen an LN-3 inertial navigational instrument used on the Starfighter, the standard combat plane of the West German air force, in April, 1967.

Martin said the thieves had made three separate attempts to break into the hangar, also located at the Zell base, where the equipment was kept.

"It took them half an hour to get the instrument through the perimeter fence and into the car and they made a great deal of noise, but nobody noticed," the official continued.

As for the second navigational aid, Martin said it was stolen in broad daylight from the Hanover spring fair. Both it and the one from the Zell base were taken to Moscow in "Mr. X's" personal luggage, Martin said.

Martin told newsmen that the security threat to West Germany had increased recently, but he warned against any spy hysteria.

Meanwhile, State Secretary Karl Carstens was preparing a preliminary report for Chancellor Kiesinger. In the course of this he was interrogating West Germany's top interrogators, the heads of the Federal Intelligence Agency, Military counterintelligence, and the Federal Office for the Protection of the Constitution.